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ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

10 When setting up a working path, a protection path is  
automatically set up by taking each node on the working  
path as a start point. A working path setup request  
message carrying "protection needed/not-needed"  
information is transmitted from an ingress node toward an  
egress node along the route of the working path. When  
transferring a path setup response message as a response  
15 to it, each node autonomously determines the route of the  
protection path and sends out a protection path setup  
request message along the route of the protection path.

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